

# Regular Meeting

<b>Agenda Item #</b>	4
<b>Meeting Date</b>	May 23, 2005
<b>Prepared By</b>	Jessie Carpenter Acting City Clerk
<b>Approved By</b>	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

<b>Discussion Item</b>	Resolution Proclaiming May 27, 2005 as Rachel Carson Day in Takoma Park
<b>Background</b>	<p>Rachel Carson is best known as the author of <i>Silent Spring</i>, the 1962 landmark book about the hazards of pesticide use. In memory of Rachel Carson, and her groundbreaking work in alerting the public about the dangers of pesticides, the Rachel Carson Council has urged communities to set aside May 27 (Rachel Carson's birthday) as a day to refrain from using chemical pesticides.</p> <p>Additional information on Rachel Carson's life and work can be found at the Rachel Carson Council's web page: <a href="http://members.aol.com/rccouncil/ourpage/">http://members.aol.com/rccouncil/ourpage/</a></p>
<b>Policy</b>	The City Council is concerned about protecting the health and safety of city residents and improving the quality of the Takoma Park environment.
<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	None.
<b>Attachments</b>	Resolution Proclaiming May 27 <sup>th</sup> as Rachel Carson Day in Takoma Park (drafted by Councilmember Austin-Lane)
<b>Recommendation</b>	Council to vote on resolution.
<b>Special Consideration</b>	

Introduced by: Councilmember Austin-Lane

**Resolution**  
**Proclaiming May 27<sup>th</sup> as Rachel Carson Day in Takoma Park**

- Whereas,** worldwide exposure to chemical pesticides brings about greater harm than most people realize; and
- Whereas,** more than three billion kilograms of pesticides are spread on the earth annually, exposing both human and wildlife populations to chemicals, with potentially serious repercussions for life everywhere; and
- Whereas,** our children are uniquely vulnerable to chemical pesticides due to their developing physiology and to their habit of frequently putting their hands into their mouths; and
- Whereas,** chemical pesticides applied outdoors are washed into our waterways and our drinking water sources. Several types of cancer, neurological diseases, endocrine disorders and birth defects have all be associated with exposure to common pesticides; and
- Whereas,** pregnant women, children, asthmatics, cancer patients, elderly people, people with compromised immune systems in addition to wildlife such as migratory birds are all highly vulnerable to the toxic effects of chemical pesticides.
- Whereas,** more than 40 years ago, the well-known writer, scientist and ecologist Rachel Carson alerted America and the world to the potential hazards of pesticides in her landmark book *Silent Spring*. Despite the warning, the quantity of pesticides used in our country has continued to grow over the years and poses a potential threat to all life forms; and

**Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland,** that we proclaim May 27, 2005 as Rachel Carson Day throughout Takoma Park, in honor of her important and highly relevant work, and urge Takoma Park residents to focus their attention on the potentially serious hazards associated with chemical pesticides; and

**Be it further resolved** that we invite residents throughout Takoma Park to observe this day, the birth date of Rachel Carson, by refraining from using chemical pesticides on this day and ask residents for their cooperation in seeking alternative methods of pest management.

Adopted this      day of      , 2005.

Attest:

City Clerk